

community, State and national efforts to fight against the exploitation and abduction of our children.

One of those community initiatives is a successful and effective way to combat child abduction and it is called Amber Alert. The Amber Alert is named after Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who was tragically abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas in 1996. The tragedy was felt throughout North Texas, and it led to a search for new and innovative community responses to help law enforcement officials find missing children.

That response is the Amber Alert, and it has frequently been successful in recovering missing children. We have been reading about it in our news media in just recent weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our Members to take the opportunity to join with us to make this a successful nationwide program, to join me in supporting the Frost-Dunn National Amber Alert Network Act. The National Amber Alert Network Act is a common sense approach to the problem of child abduction. Child abduction is finally receiving the attention it deserves. Let us take this opportunity to bring legislation to the floor that all of America can be proud of.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT BUSH

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the President on his reaching out to Congress to seek our assent over any Iraq action. The President will also meet with Prime Minister Blair and communicate with the U.N. Our leaders here in Congress were also briefed yesterday. We all know that Saddam is developing nuclear weapons. The President is reaching out to Putin of Russia, Jemin of China, and Chirac of France. He is doing the right thing.

There may be a vote here on the House floor in about 4 to 5 weeks on this action. Congress will be consulted and the President is building a consensus. We will debate the question, the simple question: Is inaction an option or not? Should we force weapons inspections as a means of building this international coalition to act against Iraq? Saddam has had 11 long years in which he has sidestepped and crawfished on allowing us to inspect. Should there be a consensus first before we inspect?

Mr. Speaker, all of these questions are healthy in the debate here in Congress, and I congratulate the President in reaching out to the public and to Congress and to have this important debate.

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I have returned from Johannesburg, South Africa where I attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The summit produced some achievements such as the agreement to improve water and sewer sanitation in the Third World. The U.S. delegation also successfully promoted public-private partnerships to solve some environmental problems. But when it came to climate change, it had no interest in partnerships.

The Bush administration stands alone in refusing to deal with global warming. As a former executive, President Bush knows that no business plan will succeed without targets and timetables, yet the President's negotiators succeeded in blocking targets and timetables to reduce the use of oil and gas and increase the use of renewable energy.

The goal of the summit was to implement a vision for a healthier and more sustainable future, but it fell short because the Bush administration has no vision beyond short-term gains for the oil and gas industry.

The U.S. risks falling behind our competitors who will develop innovative and profitable clean and efficient technologies. For the sake of our economy and our health, I urge the administration to abandon its ideological resistance to real action against climate change.

HEWLETT PACKARD'S GIVE THANKS AMERICA INITIATIVE

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the first anniversary of one of the most tragic days in our Nation's history, our attention obviously goes to those who lost their lives and their loved ones, but we also have a renewed focus on the men and women in uniform, the first responders, policemen, firefighters, medical technicians, and also our men and women in uniform who are deployed overseas.

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These people have dedicated their lives to protect our freedoms, and they put their safety on the line every day without any expectation of recognition.

To acknowledge the service of our public safety and military personnel, Hewlett-Packard created the "Give thanks, America" initiative, which allows families of military personnel and the general public to send video e-mail messages of appreciation to these heroes.

To date, tens of thousands of Americans have participated in this effort. Tomorrow at the Pentagon an interactive kiosk will be dedicated as a permanent exhibit, allowing service members, family members, and visitors the

opportunity to join in showing their deep gratitude and faith to our military personnel.

I congratulate all those associated with this very important program for pursuing this.

EDUCATION

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, most children in America are back in school this week, and parents in most areas have been provided more information about their schools and their child's academic performance than ever before.

Earlier this year, Education Secretary Rod Paige talked about the need for more education options. He said, "The new annual tests will provide parents with much more information about the quality of their children's schools, but if parents can't act on that information, they can't really hold their schools accountable, and the schools will not have a real incentive to improve."

This week, the Committee on Ways and Means, in fact today, will pass the Back-to-School Tax Relief Act that gives parents options to act on the information about the quality of their child's school. The bill gives low-income parents an above-the-line tax deduction of up to \$3,000 for almost any educational expense, including tutoring and tuition at private schools.

Parents deserve this freedom. They deserve the freedom to act in the best interests of their kids. As America's elementary and secondary students go back to school this month, I urge Congress to quickly pass the Back-to-School Tax Relief Act, H.R. 5193.

A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book tells us that there is a time for every purpose under heaven. There is a time to weep and a time to mourn, and tomorrow I will join some 250 of my colleagues in this body as we travel to Federal Hall in New York City to do just that. We will gather at a place that this Congress met and even adopted the Bill of Rights in the year 1789, and we will mourn with those who mourn, and we will weep with those who weep.

The last time I was in New York City, Mr. Speaker, was September 21. I stood in the ashes and on the periphery of the devastation at Ground Zero, and I expect tomorrow, as we all do, to be a deeply moving day emotionally.

But as we join to pray, let us ever remember that also we are told that there is a time for peace, but there is a time for war. As we pray for the bereaved, let us also pray for wisdom for